

## Message Text

PAGE 01 SOFIA 02103 01 OF 02 241140Z

53

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 INR-07 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 /027 W

----- 097725

R 241036Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 267

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SOFIA 2103

FOR CU/ARTS, CU/P, CU/EE (INFO: EUR/EE); USIA FOR IEU, IMV,  
IBS/PE, ICS/DA; VIENNA FOR RPO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BU

SUBJECT: JOSE LIMON DANCE COMPANY: SOFIA ASSESSMENT

1. SUMMARY: JOSE LIMON DANCE COMPANY'S THREE PERFORMANCES  
IN SOFIA WERE EXCEEDINGLY WELL-RECEIVED BY SRO AUDIENCES.  
BULGARIAN AUDIENCES ARE USUALLY NOT DEMONSTRATIVE, BUT THEY  
GAVE OVATIONS TO THE COMPANY. ALTHOUGHT PUBLICITY WAS  
SKIMPY, OTHER BULGARIAN SUPPORT WAS GENERALLY EXCELLENT.  
END SUMMARY.

2. JOSE LIMON DANCE COMPANY PERFORMED THREE DIFFERENT  
PROGRAMS MON TUES WED 15-16-17 SEPT IN SOFIA. DESPITE HIGH  
TICKET PRICES (HIGHEST NEARLY \$3, ROUGHLY DOUBLE LOCAL  
PRESENTATION), ALL THREE PERFORMANCES WERE SOLD OUT, WITH  
MANY STANDEES IN 1,036-SEAT THEATER. MID-30S AND YOUNGER  
PREDOMINATED IN AUDIENCES AND LED LENGTHY OVATIONS, WITH  
RHYTHMIC CLAPPING AND SOME SHOUTS OF "BRAVO." NUMBER  
OF CURTAIN CALLS WAS ALSO UNUSUAL.

3. PROGRAMS WERE WELL-CHOSEN FOR BULGARIAN TASTES,  
PRESENTING GOOD MIX OF ALMOST CLASSIC BALLET (E.G.,  
"CONCERTO GROSSO IN D MINOR") AND RELATIVELY MODERN  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SOFIA 02103 01 OF 02 241140Z

DANCE (E.G. "ORFEO"), WHICH STILL NOT TOO MODERN FOR THE  
CONSERVATIVE BULGARIANS. BULGARIAN AUDIENCES AND  
THEATER FACILITIES REPORTEDLY WERE MORE SOPHISTICATED  
THAN PREVIOUSLY ON COMPANY'S TOUR, AND COMPANY TECHNICIANS

AND DANCERS RESPONDED. RELATIONS WITH BULGARIAN HOSTS, FROM BUREAUCRATS OF "SOFIACONCERT" TO STAGEHANDS, WERE CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE.

4. PRE-PUBLICITY WAS ALMOST NON-EXISTENT. SOME POSTERS WERE UP, BUT THERE WAS NO NEWSPAPER COVERAGE UNTIL EVENING OF FIRST PERFORMANCE; THREE SHORT ARTICLES AMOUNTED TO ANNOUNCEMENTS. NO CRITIQUES HAVE YET APPEARED. AFTER DECLINING USIA FILM, "LIMON'S LEGACY," BULGARIAN TV INTERVIEWED MISS CURRIER AND PHOTOGRAPHED EXCERPTS FROM TWO PIECES, ALL FOR SHOWING LATER THIS MONTH OR EARLY NEXT. RPO-SUPPLIED EXHIBIT ARRIVED LATE, COULD BE MOUNTED IN EMBASSY EXHIBIT WINDOWS ONLY MORNING OF FIRST PERFORMANCE. STILL, PERFORMANCES WERE SOLD OUT, AND WOULD-BE THEATERGOERS GATHERED OUTSIDE THEATER BEFORE PERFORMANCES LOOKING FOR TICKETS.

5. THERE WAS SOME QUESTIONING AMONG AMERICANS AND BULGARIANS WHETHER THE VOLUME AND DURATION OF APPLAUSE MIGHT BY ANY CHANCE HAVE POLITICAL OVERTONES, SINCE BULGARIAN AUDIENCES DO NOT NORMALLY REACT WITH SUCH ENTHUSIASM. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT APPLAUSE AND CHEERS WERE MOSTLY FOR THE HIGH ARTISTIC QUALITY OF THE OFFERINGS, BUT ALSO FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE SOMETHING NEW AND FRESH FROM THE WEST.

6. SAMPLE QUOTES:

A. KIRIL DYULGEROV, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BULGARIAN IMPRESARIO AGENCY "SOFIACONCERT": "LIMON WAS GREAT CHOREOGRAPHER, BUT HE OBVIOUSLY ALSO MUST HAVE HAD GREAT KNOWLEDGE OF MUSIC, TO KNOW THE MUSIC OF BACH, BEETHOVEN, VIVALDI AND PICK SUCH PERFECT MUSIC FOR HIS DANCERS, WHICH ARE MAGNIFICENT."

B. DANCER AT STATE MUSICAL THEATER "STEFAN MAKEDONSKI," WHERE LIMON COMPANY PERFORMED: "HOW CAN PEOPLE SO YOUNG (I.E., LIMON DANCERS) DISPLAY SUCH EMOTION?" STAGE CREW UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SOFIA 02103 01 OF 02 241140Z

MEMBER: "AMONG 200 MILLION POPULATION THEY COULD FIND 20 LIKE THAT."

C. TEEN-AGE GIRL WHO CAME 60 MILES FROM BLAGOEVGRAD FOR SECOND PERFORMANCE, AFTER LEARNING ABOUT LIMON COMPANY'S VISIT FROM VOA BULGARIAN BROADCASTS: "I AM SIMPLY ENRAPPED." SHE SAID THIS AFTER WATCHING LIMON'S PAEAN TO AMERICAN INDIAN, "THE UNSUNG," THEN HANDED P&C OFFICER SLIP OF PAPER TO GIVE THE COMPANY. IT READ, "HELP THE INDIAN."

7. BULGARIAN THEATRICAL SUPPORT WAS GENERALLY EXCELLENT, MAKING UP IN WILLINGNESS WHAT THEY LACKED IN TECHNICAL

CAPABILITY. LIGHTING WAS SIMPLIFIED COMPARED WITH U.S. STAGING, BUT STILL WELL DONE. COMPANY USED ITS OWN SOUND SYSTEM, BECAUSE THEATER SYSTEM HAD HIGH NOISE LEVEL. BULGARIANS PROVIDED LARGER AIRCRAFT FOR FLIGHTS TO AND FROM SOFIA, INSURING ROOM FOR ENTIRE COMPANY, AND CHARTERED AIRCRAFT TO RETURN COMPANY'S PROPERTIES TO ATHENS (SOFIA 2023).

8. BULGARIANS DID NOT ACCEPT COMPANY'S OFFER OF WORKSHOPS OR LECTURE/DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT MEMBERS OF THEATER'S DANCE GROUP SAT IN ON COMPANY'S REHEARSALS.

9. REPRESENTATIONAL EVENTS INCLUDED:

A. AMBASSADOR HOSTED COCKTAILS SUN 14 SEPT IN COMPANY'S HONOR. KEY BULGARIAN GUESTS INCLUDED DIRECTOR KIRIL STEFANOV OF "SOFIA CONCERT," GENERAL DIRECTOR EMIL BOSHNAKOV OF CHIEF DIRECTORATE "BULGARSKA MUZIKA" (OVER-ALL SUPERVISORY BODY ON MUSIC), DIRECTOR GEORGI ABRASHEV OF NATIONAL OPERA'S BALLET, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF HOST THEATER.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SOFIA 02103 02 OF 02 241152Z

53

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 INR-07 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 /027 W

----- 097893

R 241036Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 268

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SOFIA 2103

FOR CU/ARTS, CU/P, CU/EE (INFO: EUR/EE); USIA FOR IEU, IMV, IBS/PE, ICS/DA; VIENNA FOR RPO

B. AMBASSADOR HOSTED 48 BULGARIANS AND DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES AT PREMIERE MON 15 SEPT. LEADING BULGARIANS INCLUDED DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MARIA ZAKHARIEVA, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE KHRISTO KHRISTOV; PRIMA BALLERINA VERA KIROVA; PROF. BLAGOVEST SENDOV, SOFIA UNIVERSITY RECTOR; LEADING COMPOSER MARIN GOLEMINOV.

10. PRESENCE OF STATE DEPT ESCORT OFFICER GEORGE WEST -- KNOWLEDGEABLE AND FULLY EXPERIENCED -- WAS OF DECIDED ADVANTAGE.

11. ONE BULGARIAN DANCER REMARKED TO P&C OFFICER:  
"YOU'VE GOT TO BRING INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS LIKE THIS  
HERE MUCH MORE FREQUENTLY." EMBASSY AGREES. REMAINS  
TO BE SEEN IF BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES WILL FEEL THE SAME  
WAY.  
HERZ

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SOFIA02103  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D750331-0104  
**From:** SOFIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t197509107/baaaagls.tel  
**Line Count:** 172  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION CU  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellEO  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 JUN 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2004 by RowellEO>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** OEXC, BU  
**To:** STATE INFO USIA  
VIENNA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006